

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

ACDA-05 /061 W

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R 230832Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 240

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, MARR

SUBJECT: ROK PRESS CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING OF DEFENSE TREATY

REF: SEOUL 3508

1. WHILE TAKING HEART FROM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARK THAT US WOULD REACT FIRMLY TO NORTH KOREAN ATTACK (REFTEL), ROK PRESS HAS ALSO GIVEN EXPRESSION TO UNDERLYING UNEASINESS OVER FACT THAT ROK-US MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY DOES NOT CONTAIN NATO-STYLE CLAUSE REQUIRING AUTOMATIC US INTERVENTION. GOVERNMENT SEOUL SHINMUN IN MAY 20 EDITORIAL ON SCHLESINGER COMMENTS, SAID "WHAT WE TRULY WORRY ABOUT IS WHETHER THE US WILL REALLY SUPPORT US" IN EVENT OF ALL-OUT NORTH KOREAN ATTACK. PAPER CLAIMED THAT NORTH KOREAN TREATIES WITH PRC AND USSR GUARANTEE PROMPT AND FULL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SAID ROK-US PACT SHOULD BE REVISED TO MAKE IT STRONGER THAN THESE. SEMI-OFFICIAL KYONGHYANG SHINMUN MADE SIMILAR POINT MAY 22, SAYING THAT ROK-US TREATY IS WEAKER THAN NATO PACT AND INSUFFICIENT TO CONFRONT NORTH KOREAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS EFFECTIVELY.

2. CONCERN FELT BY PRESS IS THAT USG STATEMENTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS INTENTION TO ABIDE BY TREATY DO NOT INCLDE ANY REAL

ASSURANCE THAT CONGRESS WILL SUPPORT US PARTICIPATION  
IN A NEW KOREAN WAR. TONGA ILBO, FOR EXAMPLE, NOTED  
THAT "THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S  
READINESS TO INTERVENE IN A WAR ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA  
WILL NOT MEET CONGRESSIONAL OBJECTION. IN OTHER WORDS,  
US PARTICIPATION CAN BE TURNED DOWN BY CONGRESS."  
TONGA SAW SCHLESINGER REMARKS AS INDICATION  
ADMINISTRATION WOULD ATTEMPT TO DESTROY NORTH'S  
MILITARY CAPABILITY BEFORE EXPIRATION OF TIME LIMIT  
IMPOSED BY WAR POWERS ACT. NONETHELESS, TONGA  
CONCLUDED, ROKG SHOULD SPARE NO EFFORT TO FURTHER  
STRENGTHEN ITS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES TOWARD THE  
US CONGRESS.  
SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SEOUL03670  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 SEOUL 3508  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROK PRESS CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING OF DEFENSE TREATY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, KS, KN, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006